2015

An Overview of the Evolution of Bowling Green State University Athletics Programs 1941-2015

Janet Parks
Bowling Green State University

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An Overview

of the Evolution of

Bowling Green State University Athletics Programs

1941-2015

Janet B. Parks
2015
Janet B. Parks, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus
School of Human Movement, Sport, and Leisure Studies
An Overview of the Evolution of Bowling Green State University
Athletics Programs: 1941-2015

This report was prepared at the request of Christopher C. Hughes, BGSU Senior Associate Athletic Director. The purpose was to fill two voids in the story of the evolution of BGSU men’s and women’s athletics programs.

First, the history of the long and close relationship between the health & physical education departments and athletics had never before been recorded. That relationship is chronicled in the first section of this report.

Another void existed in the understanding of the history of BGSU women’s athletics. Ann Bowers, Addie Hostetler Muti, and Janet Parks conducted extensive research about the women’s programs and published their findings in Forward Falcons (2010, Lulu.com Publishing). The second and third sections of this report contain information from Forward Falcons and other sources about varsity letters, “club” teams, the four BGSU women’s heritage sports, and eight of the nine contemporary sports offered at BGSU.

Information in this report will be useful to personnel in the Athletics Department, Marketing and Communication, University Advancement, Alumni Affairs, Student Affairs, Admissions, and many other University entities.
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Relationships between BGSU Health and Physical Education Departments and BGSU Athletics Programs
Timeline

Relationships between Health and Physical Education and Intercollegiate Athletics at BGSU have been through a variety of iterations; consequently, the story can become complicated. A timeline of events might be helpful in unraveling the details.

Prior to 1941—men's and women's health and physical education departments were separate units; coaches of men's intercollegiate teams were faculty members in men's HPE; there were no intercollegiate teams for women.

1941—the men's and women's physical education departments merged into a Department of Health and Physical Education (HPE) that contained two divisions—one for men and one for women; coaches of men's intercollegiate teams were Men's HPE faculty members; as women's intercollegiate teams became established several years later, they were coached by Women's HPE faculty members (see Letter to the Editor on p. 44).

1953—BGSU men's athletics teams joined the Mid-American Conference (B-G News, July 23, 1953, p. 5)

1970—the Department of Health and Physical Education (HPE) separated into two units that were generally, but not exclusively, segregated by gender (HPE for men and PER for women); all intercollegiate team coaches were faculty members in either HPE or PER.

1971—BGSU joined the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW), which sponsored a variety of regional and national competitions through 1982 (see Forward Falcons, pp. ix, 82, 83, 95, 99); the AIAW was the women's counterpart to the NCAA; women's teams qualifying for regional and national AIAW competitions was as prestigious as men's teams qualifying for similar NCAA events.

1976—the women's and men's intercollegiate athletics programs merged; the relationships between HPE/PER and Athletics began to transition; all coaches of women's intercollegiate teams and some coaches of men's teams (e.g., Don Nehlen, head football coach, 1968-1976) were faculty members; some coaches of men's teams had contracts exclusively with Athletics.

1978—Kathy Bole was the first full-time, female coach (softball and women's basketball) hired exclusively by the Athletics Department (1979 Key, p. 161); some coaches of men's teams were also under contract to Athletics; other coaches of both women's and men's teams remained on faculty contracts with a percentage of their teaching assignments allocated to coaching.

1979—HPE and PER merged into the School of HPER (now HMSLS); with only a few exceptions, intercollegiate coaches were under contract to the Department of Athletics; coaches who wished to be adjunct faculty members could apply to the unit in which their skills and expertise rendered them qualified (e.g., physical education, sport management); their teaching responsibilities were characterized as “overloads,” and they were compensated according to a University formula.

Men's HPE, Women's HPE, and Athletics

Prior to 1941, BGSU had two departments of Health and Physical Education, a women's department and a men's department. As shown in the Bee Gee News articles and photographs in the 1966 Key that follow, those departments merged in 1941, forming one Department of Health and Physical Education (HPE) with two divisions — Men's HPE and Women's HPE. Intercollegiate coaches, all of whom were men at the time, were members of the Men's HPE faculty. As women's intercollegiate teams became established several years later, Women's HPE faculty members were the coaches. This structure remained in place until 1970.

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全文内容如下：

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Positions Of P.E. Group Announced

Coach Ockerman Reveals Duties In Revamped Department

A meeting of all the members of the Athletic Department was held Monday noon at which time organization and plans for the coming semester were disclosed by Athletic Director Harry Ockerman. A wide discussion was also held on the work and improvements of the department.

With the coming semester, Harry Ockerman, former Falcon football coach, will be Head of the Department of Health and Physical Education and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. Ockerman resigned his coaching job early in December to take over his present position.

Steller P. E. Head

W.E. Steller will have full charge of men's physical education which includes a professional course in physical education for men, service courses for men students and some work in the intramural department. He will also coach the varsity baseball team.

Paul E. Landis will continue in his present capacity as Director of Intramural Athletics for men, and varsity basketball and track coach.

Whittaker New Grid Coach

Robert H. Whittaker, former Sandusky high football coach, will take over the head football coaching duties beginning next semester and will be in charge of the freshman tracksters this spring.

Fred Marsh will continue as freshman football and basketball coach and will also be varsity golf coach.

Melvin Budd Cox will continue his duties as varsity swimming coach and head tennis mentor. He will also be an assistant football coach.

Coaches To Teach

All coaches in intercollegiate athletics will teach in the department of health and physical education in addition to their coaching duties.

Dr. W. H. Brown will act as Director of Health Service and University Physician while Dr. Helen B. Todd, former University Physician, will be Professor of Health Education.

Bee Gee News, Jan. 22, 1941, p. 3
Michigan State Professor To Head Women’s Athletics

Miss Gertrude Eppler, assistant professor of physical education at Michigan State Normal College, Ypsilanti, Mich., will become head of the women’s division of the department of health and physical education of Bowling Green State University, it was announced today by President F. J. Prout.

Miss Eppler, for 10 years a member of the Ypsilanti faculty, will assume her duties here in September. Her appointment completes the personnel of the recently reorganized department of physical education which combines both men’s and women’s divisions under the direction of Harry Ockerman, department head.

Miss Eppler holds degrees from Michigan State Normal College and the University of Michigan. She taught for three years in the Michigan public schools before going to the state college faculty. For three years she was assistant director of Camp Wasaquam, Platt Lake, Mich., and has been on the Highland Park recreation staff for a number of years.

In addition to college teaching, Miss Eppler is supervisor of health and physical education at the Rockham school for handicapped children at Michigan State Normal College.

At the Michigan University, Miss Eppler is advisor of the Physical Education club and the Theta Sigma Upsilon sorority, a national education sorority of which she is also a member. She is a member of Delta Omega, public health honorary fraternity. She is a nationally rated basketball official and has officiated widely at southern Michigan games. She holds the national Red Cross instructor’s certificate in swimming.

The present staff in women’s physical education at the university will continue to serve under Miss Eppler’s direction.
Note: D. “Pevvy” in row three is Doyt L. Perry, who was head football coach from 1955 to 1965 and Athletics Director from 1965 through 1970.
women's hpe

Many of the courses which the women's health and physical education department offers are ones that the women can use throughout their lives.

M. Heskett; J. Parks; row two: P. Boussoulas; B. Matter; G. Eppler; L. Kratz; M. Lyke; row three: P. Peterson; M. Whitney; A. Torgerson; A. Hooley; J. Sidwell; M. Watt; D. Black.
MHPE/WHPE Separation and Reunion

In 1970, the men’s and women’s divisions again separated into two departments—the Health and Physical Education Department (primarily men) and the Physical Education and Recreation Department (primarily women).

HPE departments now autonomous

The men’s and women’s physical education departments are now formally separate operations, each with their own budget.

According to Mrs. Annie Clement, director of the women’s department, “As far as I can see, we really never were combined in the first place. The men’s offices have always been in Memorial Hall and the stadium, while the women were stashed in the Women’s and Men’s gyms. I rarely saw many male staff members.”

The switch has come about as a result of a proposal made last spring by Mrs. Clement, and her committee to the College of Education, which was subsequently approved by the academic council.

“The only differences,” said Mrs. Clement, “are in the budget and the number of people in our department. All operations will remain the same and only one office room has been switched.”

“We are now called ‘autonomous,’” continued Mrs. Clement, “which we actually have been anyway ever since I arrived here.”

Mrs. Clement said the move has nothing at all to do with women’s liberation, but was merely done for convenience sake.

She specified that her department’s name is actually Women’s Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, but is open to men.

“We have a graduate course this quarter in which the membership is all male,” she said.

“We also have plans for the future, involving participation of men in undergraduate courses in this department. The courses are still in the planning stage.”

The women’s department still interacts with its male counterpart through a committee structure which existed before the move was made.

BG News, Sept. 25, 1970, p. 4

In 1979, the two departments merged once again to form the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER). Today, the unit is titled School of Human Movement, Sport, and Leisure Studies (HMSLS). NB: In the article above, “Mrs.” Annie Clement was actually Dr. Annie Clement.
Contractual Agreements

While women's and men's athletics were associated with their respective health and physical education department, coaches were on either fulltime faculty contracts or joint faculty/athletics contracts. Even Doyt Perry, the legendary football coach (1955-1965) and AD (1965-1970), was a member of the men's HPE faculty. As late as 1978-79, Athletics Director, Dr. Richard Young, had a joint contract with Athletics and the College of Education. The contract identified him as "Athletic Director, Associate Professor [tenured]" (BGSU Center for Archival Collections). In August of 1978, Young took a job as AD at Oklahoma State, and Jim Lessig was selected as Bowling Green's AD. Lessig (1978-1982) was the first AD to be hired exclusively on an Athletics contract. In 1978, Kathy Bole was the first full-time, female coach (softball and women's basketball) hired exclusively by the Athletics Department (1979 Key, p. 161).

Bell quits A.D. post; Young in

By Harold Brown
Sports Editor

In an unexpected move, Bowling Green State University has its second Athletic Director in 90 days. Richard A. Young, head Falcon baseball coach, was appointed to fill the position vacated by the resignation of Dr. Robert G. Bell Wednesday.

University President Bella A. Moore made the announcement at a press conference late yesterday afternoon.

Concerning Dr. Bell's resignation, Dr. Moore said, "Reasons for his leaving are largely personal; Dr. Bell's family has never moved from California to Ohio.

ALTHOUGH HE HAS received exceptionally strong support from this administration, encouragement from the faculty and loyal support from every member of the Athletic Department, he still feels it bowing Green's potentialities in intercollegiate athletics do not effect the considerable personal unhappiness which he feels," Dr. Moore said.

Dr. Moore, in announcing the appointment of Young, said, "Bell is his December 1 was a 'tune-up' in my mind between Bob Bell and Dick Young. Dick was strongly recommended by a special screening committee at that time and I was strongly impressed with his approach to the athletic program and his own personal characteristics of stability, integrity, and dedication to a balanced athletic program in the University."

"I AM JUST as proud to get this job now as I would have been to prevail after Doyt resigned," Young said. "I hope the appointment is well received by everyone connected with the University."

Young, who is also presently the head baseball coach, will resume his duties until the end of the current season and the new coach will be appointed.

"I do not feel that coaching and administration are compatible with each other," he said.

"I believe our coaching staff is second to none in the Midwest and with the help of everyone we can do the job with the program," Young said.

"I BELIEVE athletics belong in an intellectual atmosphere. I expect to teach through athletics, not merely entertain," he said.

Young, 39, received his B.A. from Ohio State in 1964 and his M.A. in education, also from OSU, in 1966. He is currently working on his doctoral degree here at the University.

He joined the Falcon coaching staff in 1973 as an assistant football coach. His duties included coaching the freshman team to a 35-7 record in eight seasons.

HE HAS ALSO served as baseball coach since that time and has compiled a 165-154-6 in the past 11 seasons. This year's team is currently 67. He is also acting director of the Health and Physical Education Department while Dr. Sans Cooper is on a leave of absence.

Young said he "has had a great job because I am enthusiastic about the job, well organized and dedicated to this University and believe in all of its programs."

Young had no idea of the impending announcement until 11 a.m. when he was told that Dr. Moore wanted to talk to him. "My first thought was, what did I do wrong?"

Young moves to Oklahoma State

Lessig named Athletic Director

James Lessig, Bowling Green State University class of 1967, has returned to his alma mater to serve as Athletic Director for the 1979-79 academic year.

Lessig replaces Richard Young, who resigned this summer to take a similar post at Oklahoma State University.

The 37-year-old Lessig has served as assistant director of development, freshman basketball coach, assistant varsity basketball coach and director of alumni and development over the years. He will serve at the University.

In 1956, Lessig served as assistant basketball coach to Bill Fitch when the Falcons won the MAC and were chosen to play in the NCAA tournament.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR, Minford High School team and in 1970, Lessig served as assistant coach and head scout for the newly formed Cleveland Cavaliers of the National Basketball Association.

Lessig returned to the University in 1971 as director of alumni and development where he remained until his present appointment.

"I've spent a good part of my life in sports," said Lessig of his appointment. "After a while it gets into your blood and it's always there. I think this is a good opportunity to do something new and useful."

Lessig said his first objective as athletic director is to increase attendance at University football games. Although he will be a great fan in any way the team itself, Lessig said he does have some ideas to get more students out to the games.

Sometime after 1979, the majority of athletics administrators and coaches began to receive contracts that were exclusively with Athletics. The only faculty members who continued to have joint appointments were several coaches whose primary assignments were teaching. These individuals had already been coaching at BG SU prior to 1979 and were allocated a percentage of time for coaching (e.g., 25%) in their teaching assignments. Currently, no HMSLS faculty members hold joint contracts with the Athletics Department.
Common Misconceptions
Varsity Letters

Although conventional wisdom suggests that BGSU female athletes did not earn varsity letters prior to the 1976 merger of the women's and men's athletics programs, history reveals a different story. As early as 1928, the women athletes received emblems associated with their intramural sports teams. The emblems were on several levels and depended on the number of points each woman accumulated in sports. The first emblem was a "W. A. A.," which was "regarded as the same as the varsity B. G. awarded to men" (BG News, April 20, 1928, p. 13). The next-to-highest level for women was the B. G. sweater (see below). In 1949, the women athletes voted to stop awarding sweaters but continued to award medals and letters (Bee Gee News, March 16, 1949, p. 3). I have been unable to discover when they stopped awarding medals and letters in intramurals or why athletes on the intercollegiate teams that developed in the 1960s did not receive letters. I suspect it was a philosophy that valued participation over extrinsic motivation, a position that was widely held among female physical educators and athletes of that time.

THE Women's Athletic Association is one of the most active organizations in our college.

W. A. A. slogans are: "Play for play's sake" and "A team for every girl and every girl on a team."

A competition is carried on in all sports throughout the year between teams from the North and South sides of town, with Court Street and Wallace Avenue the dividing lines. This makes a very interesting division. Every student who comes out for a sport is placed on a team representing her residence group. Teams then play off a series of games for the championship in that sport.

The purposes of the Women's Athletic Association are to promote interest in all sports and physical activity for all women of the college as a means of promoting physical efficiency and developing a high degree of sportsmanship, school and class spirit.

There is a regular meeting of the association each month of the school year. At the meetings there is a business meeting and a social meeting.

Letters and honors are awarded not for winning but for taking part, being skillful, showing loyalty to the team, being sportsmanlike and enjoying the game. When the student has won 300 points she receives a W. A. A. letter, 600 points a chevron, 900 a double chevron, 1200, the college letter, B. G., and 1800 a W. A. A. gold pin.

In February of 2005, the Athletics Department invited approximately 800 pre-merger female athletes to return to campus to receive their varsity letters. At the close of the awards ceremony in which letters were awarded to more than 200 women, Athletics Director Paul Krebs made the following statement: "Welcome to the Varsity BG Club. It's only fitting that we recognize you. You are a great part of our tradition, a great part of our history, and you are now officially recognized as members of the Varsity BG" (WBGU video—Falcon Women’s Athletics: 1910-1970—The Leadership Years—91:10-91:30).

Sports Clubs
In 1976, the men’s and women’s intercollegiate athletics programs merged under the auspices of the Athletics Department. Pre-merger women’s teams have sometimes been characterized as “club” teams, presumably because they were not affiliated with the higher-profile men’s athletic program. As noted previously, however, the women’s and men’s athletics programs were separate in structure and different in philosophy, but they were parallel in that **both programs fielded intercollegiate teams that represented Bowling Green State University**. The women’s teams, therefore, are entitled to be identified as intercollegiate.

The distinction between club teams and intercollegiate teams is important. For many decades, BGSU has fielded sports clubs under structures other than the physical education departments or the department of athletics. Examples are the women’s bowling clubs that were sponsored by the University Union (see images below) and the figure skating clubs sponsored by the Ice Arena. These teams were not part of either the women’s or men’s intercollegiate programs, and the team members did not receive varsity letters. Consequently, they are rightly called “club” teams.

Today, the Office of Student Affairs sponsors a variety of sports clubs, such as bowling, baseball, and men’s rugby. Like the clubs that were offered by the Union and the Ice Arena in the past, these teams do not fall under an “athletics department,” and the participants do not earn school letters.

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**Bowlers Set For Tourney**

Representatives for the Region VII bowling tournament were announced by the Bowling Committee of the Union Activities Organization last week. The tournament will be held at Central Michigan University next month.

Qualifying for the men’s team were Tom Berg, John Goldstein, Vince Malik, Denny Puck, and Rich Malik. Sue Bauer, Carla Rupert, Mary Houston, Connie Hunter, and Mary Lou Money comprise the women’s squad. Berg, a sophomore, paced the men in the 24-game qualification roll-offs with 4,551 pins for a 190 average. He also was the winner of the all-campus tournament, chalked up 2,212 pins in 12 games.

Miss Bauer led the women in the roll-offs, knocking down 4,387 pins for a 193 average. Last month she captured the women’s all-campus crown, garnering 2,127 pins in 12 games. She also won the roll-offs and campus title last year.

The women’s team will be defending the regional championship it won in 1964.

*BG News, January 12, 1965, p. 3*

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**Coed Kegler In Tournament**

Nancy Allison, a senior in the college of education, will bowl in the International Bowling Contest next month in New Orleans.

Miss Allison established herself as region seven champion when she won the all-Ohio and all-Michigan tournament held at Western Michigan University recently.

Scoring a high game of 230 and compiling an average of 175, Miss Allison defeated the 16 top bowlers from six area universities.

A senior majoring in health and physical education, Miss Allison has been bowling for 10 years and plans to coach bowling when she starts teaching next year.

“I enjoy the game because of the relaxation it gives,” Miss Allison says.

“Many people lose the sense of fun in bowling because they try too hard when they bowl for leisure,” she added.

“The most common bowling errors people make seem to be pulling the arm across the body rather than straight out, turning the body too much, and not being consistent in throwing the ball,” she said.

The Union Activities Organization and the College Unions International are sponsoring Miss Allison in the New Orleans competition.

*BG News, March 17, 1966, p. 4*
1966

WOMEN'S

INTERNATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE
BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP

New Orleans, Louisiana
April 16-18, 1966

Recreation Committee
L. H. Horton Jr., Chairman
Arthur F. Garner, Tournament Director
Media Guides
Historical Context and Suggestions

After the 1976 merger of the two athletics programs, the sports information personnel were conscientious about writing the women’s teams’ guides. Those of us who were coaching at the time had a good deal of sympathy for these individuals because they were given the responsibility for an additional 10 teams, but they were not given additional money or human resources to accommodate the additional work. Another factor complicated writing the guides for the women’s teams. When we merged, we sent a lot of files to the offices in the football stadium. Unfortunately, these files and other materials were destroyed when the storage space under the bleachers flooded. So, the sports information personnel did the best they could under less-than-ideal circumstances.

Today, a dearth of information about BGSU women’s athletics is no longer a problem. Ann Bowers, Addie Hostetler Muti, and I conducted extensive research about the women’s programs and published our findings in *Forward Falcons* (2010, Lulu.com Publishing). Information in *Forward Falcons* could guide the sports communication personnel in writing the team history sections of the women’s media guides.

On the following pages, you will find information about the four BGSU women’s heritage sports and eight of the nine contemporary sports offered at BGSU. The information, all of which was gleaned from *Forward Falcons*, includes “start dates,” coaches, and historical highlights. *The names of the coaches and the years in which the teams became intercollegiate* (i.e., varsity) *are those that are documented in University publications such the BG News or the Key or through personal communication with the coaches of the inaugural teams.* When introducing new coaches as the “#th” coach in program history, it would be accurate to count from the first coach listed for the teams in this overview and in *Forward Falcons*.

I am *not* suggesting that all of this information be incorporated into the media guides. I am hopeful that the information will provide a view of BGSU women’s athletics that will be infused into current administrators’, coaches’, and athletes’ understanding of the historical record of women’s sports at BGSU. Some of the information could be used as historical backdrop in stories about contemporary athletes, coaches, and teams. It could also be used in any future “quizzes” about BGSU sports history, such as the one that was created in conjunction with the 2014 Athletics Legacy event.

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**Special alert:** For many decades, numerous trophies from BGSU women’s athletics exploits were stored in a large display case in the Women’s Building (now Eppler North). During the renovation of Eppler Complex in the early 1990s, the trophies were moved to an unknown location. Some of us have searched for them, but to no avail. If they are ever found, the inscriptions on them will shed additional light on the history of BGSU women’s athletics.
**Heritage Sports**

Swan Club/Synchronized Swimming (women)—1939-1946 (club); 1946-1978 (varsity, coed); 1979 (club)

**Coaches:** Jean Drake Hendrickson (1939-1941); Gertrude Eppler (1941-1945); Iris Andrews (1945-1976); Jean Bailey Campbell (1976-1978); Sandy Cox (1978-1979)

**Historical highlights**

“Swan Club was initiated in December of 1939, when Jean Drake invited 32 students from her swimming classes ‘to practice water formations for a swim pageant, as part of the [natatorium] dedication program’ (*Bee Gee News*, Dec. 6, 1939, p. 4)” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 209).

“As the 1946 *Key* reported, ‘The club took on a competitive aspect this year and vied its form and speed with that of clubs from other campuses.’ (p. 161). Many years later, Coach Jean Campbell explained the difference between show swimming and competitive synchronized swimming: ‘Competitive synchronized has no relation to show swimming...What is involved is the performing of figures, similar to figure skating. Scoring is done similarly to that done in diving’ (*BG News*, January 7, 1977, p. 6)” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 217).

“At a 1952 meet at the University of Illinois, for example, BG Swans won two second places and a fourth place against 125 competitors representing 13 Midwestern colleges and universities (*B-G News*, March 7, 1952). They were similarly successful in several international competitions held at the University of Western Ontario (*B-G News*, Nov. 16, 1956)” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 217).

“Between 1951 and 1971, Andrews made the Swan Club a known power by capturing an amazing 20 consecutive Midwest team championships (*BGSU Press Release*)....Andrews explained: ‘We have performed all over the East and the Midwest at invitational meets of the best synchronized swim clubs in the country. We have always placed in the top three at the meets and have held many firsts...Our university has a reputation as one of the outstanding colleges in the country for women’s synchronized swimming’ (*BG News*, Feb. 24, 1971, p. 5)” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 218).

“In addition to taking first place at the MAC and Western Michigan Invitationalos, the Falcon “A” team also won the championship in their division at the state meet, where Connie Cooper won the state solo title, and placed third in the Midwest Regionals (*BG News*, April 13, 1978). In the year’s culminating event, they captured 6th place among the 21 teams at the AIAW meet, where Cooper, Marilyn Humphrey, Margo Humphrey, and Mary Heitman won All-American Honorable Mention honors (*BG News*, April 18, 1978)” (*Forward Falcons*, pp. 222-223).

“After the 1978 season, synchronized swimming was dropped as a varsity sport, and the Swans began to function as a club team under the leadership of assistant swim coach Sandy Cox. In the 1979 AIAW National Synchronized Swimming Championships, Margo Humphrey and Kris Humphries were named All-Americans as they led Bowling Green to a second consecutive 6th place finish” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 223).
Fencing (women)—1945 (club); 1970-1978 (varsity, coed)

**Coaches:** Iris Andrews (1945-1969); Ken Mitchell (1969-1971); Beverly Zanger (1969-1978)

**Historical highlights**

“In 1945, Iris Andrews organized the first fencing club on the BGSU campus, and the members competed against Ohio State and the University of Michigan (Iris Andrews, March 31, 1988)” (Forward Falcons, p. 137).

“In January 1969, a coed fencing club was formally organized with support from the Health and Physical Education Department. Fencing course instructors were WHPE faculty member Beverly Zanger and graduate student and former Ohio State letter-winning fencer, Kenneth Mitchell. It was their intent to expand the sport from club to intercollegiate competition” (Forward Falcons, p. 137). Intercollegiate matches were held in December of 1970 (Forward Falcons, p. 138).

“After losing the first four matches of the 1976 schedule, ‘the BG women then made a spectacular comeback effort as they won their next four matches, blitzing Windsor, 16-0; dumping Cleveland State, 13-3; slipping past Notre Dame, 9-7; and pasting Kent State University, 14-2’ (Key, 1976, p. 158). Zanger characterized the women’s victory over Notre Dame as ‘the highlight of the meet’ (BG News, February 19, 1976, p. 8)” (Forward Falcons, p. 141)

Field Hockey—1950-1982 (varsity)

**Coaches:** Dorothy Fornia (1950-1953); Debbie DeBottaro (1953-1954); Dorothy Luedtke (1954-1963); Patricia Peterson (1963-1965); Joy Sidwell (1965-1968); Carol Durentini (1968-1976); Sue Gavron (1976-1978); Pat Brett (1978-1982)

**Historical highlights**

“A Falcon field hockey club was organized in 1950, when a team went to the Great Lakes Sectional Hockey Tournament in Bloomfield Hills, MI (Bee Gee News, November 7, 1950, p. 4). Dorothy Luedtke explained the impetus behind forming the club: ‘...we called it a club, but actually it was a team’ (March 31, 1988)” (Forward Falcons, p. 144).

In 1952 “…the Falcons won the Buckeye Field Hockey Tournament held at Denison University. As a result of their performance in the tournament, Nancy Terry, Patricia Daugert, Jo Case, Betty Thomas, and Sue Carlisle were selected for the Buckeye I team. Selections for the Buckeye II team were Mary Pollock, Mary Lou Kieffer, and Barbara Brown. At the Great Lakes Tournament held later in the season, Terry, Daugert, Case, and Thomas were selected to represent the University in the National Field Hockey Tournament held at Sweet Briar College in Virginia (B-G News, November 25, 1952; Key, 1953, p. 91)” (Forward Falcons, p. 147).

“During the 1970s, several Falcon stickers were recognized as standouts. In 1972-73, Cindy Hubbard and Cindy Williman were named to the all-Ohio team, and in 1973 Lorraine Procacci, Karla Ewald, and Karen Williams were selected for the Buckeye II team. The following year, Ginny McGee, who had played hockey and lacrosse in
Pennsylvania before coming to BG, was also tapped for the Buckeye II team” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 148).

**Lacrosse—1971 (spring, club); 1971-1981 (varsity)**

**Coaches:** Annella Petkovich (1970-1971); Carol Durentini (1971-1977); Mickey Cochrane (1977-1978); Carol Durentini (1978-1981)

**Historical highlights**

“In the fall of 1970, HPER graduate assistant Annella Petkovich, approached Sue Hager about starting a women’s lacrosse team in the following spring.” Durentini added, “I assisted Annella that first year and went to a lacrosse camp in the Poconos that summer’ (February, 13, 2011)” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 177).

“In an interesting approach to skill development, the women’s and men’s teams would occasionally scrimmage against each other to help the men focus on their footwork and stick-checking skills rather than on body checking” (*Forward Falcons*, pp. 177-178).

“The lacrosse team finished the 1973 season with a 7-1 mark, which included a 13-1 rout of a team composed of players from various Midwest schools. Throughout the rest of the 1970s, the lacrosse team continued its winning ways, sporting a 32-9 record from 1973 through 1976. The prowess of BG players was acknowledged regionally as Falcons were consistently among those selected to play on Midwest I and II teams in U.S. Women’s Lacrosse Association (USWLA) national tournaments” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 178).

“At the 1975 Midwest Women’s Lacrosse Association (MWLA) Tournament, Durentini’s coaching peers selected her to coach the Midwest I lacrosse team in the USWLA national tournament at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 178).

“In 1976, the club had a 12-2 record, the best in its history, and they also performed well in the MWLA Tournament at Earlham College. During the season they defeated traditional powerhouses such as Oberlin, Wittenberg, and Wooster. As a fitting conclusion to her lacrosse career, senior Ginny McGee was named to the Midwest All-Star team for the fourth straight year” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 178).
### Contemporary Sports

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Basketball

First team: Media Guide—1973-74; Forward Falcons—1953 (Club); 1962 (varsity)


p. 121 revision—Two women’s basketball coaches are in the BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame—the first coach, Dorothy Luedtke (1962-1966), who graduated from BGSU in 1947 and was inducted 1985; she coached various sports at BGSU for 33 years; and Fran Voll (1984-1991), who graduated from BGSU in 1968 and was inducted in 2002.

Historical highlights

Through the WIA, Bowling Green was represented for the first time in history in intercollegiate basketball. Appearing on the co-ed’s schedule were Adrian, Kent, Dayton, and the University of Michigan. BGSU Key, 1963, p. 197

“During the 1960s, BGSU fielded two basketball teams, the “A” (varsity) team and the “B” (junior varsity) team. In March 1965, Coach Luedtke’s “A” team, having experienced only one loss in two years, defeated Ohio State University by a score of 33-30 (B-G News, March 2, 1965, p. 3) (Forward Falcons, p. 116).

“During Hager’s tenure as coach, her players invented Frieda Falcon, who performed at their home games” (Forward Falcons, p. 116).

“National rules changes in the 1960s and 1970s included the addition of a rover in 1962, the switch from a 3-dribble limit to the continuous dribble in 1966, and the emergence of the full-court game in 1971” (Forward Falcons, p. 122 [Note—the NCAA introduced the smaller ball in 1984]).

“On January 26, 1974, the first women’s intercollegiate basketball game was broadcast on WFAL” (Key, 1974, p. 172; Forward Falcons, p. 122).

“Hager experienced one of the most memorable moments of her coaching career on Jan. 18, 1975, when the Falcons defeated Ohio State by a score of 56-50 in a game played before hundreds of cheering fans in Anderson Arena (2009-2010 Media Guide)” (Forward Falcons, p. 123).

“By 1982, women’s basketball had been incorporated into the Mid-American Conference, and the BG program had grown from a 19-game season to a 30-game schedule. Chris Tuttle and Melissa Chase became the first and second players, respectively, in the history of BG women’s basketball to score over 1,000 points in their careers. A noteworthy observation is that they accomplished this feat with the larger basketball and without the 3-point line” (Forward Falcons, p. 129).
Cross Country

First team: Media Guide—1976; Forward Falcons—1976 (varsity)

Omitted coaches: David Williams (1976-1978); other than in record lists, no previous coaches are mentioned in the media guide

Historical highlights

In 1976, under Coach David Williams, "...the Falcon harriers finished their first season placing a respectable 21st out of 74 teams at the AUAW national in Madison, WI" (Forward Falcons), p. 131.

In 1978, under Coach Sid Sink, "...they won the Falcon Invitational and garnered a 13th place finish in the MAIAW Regionals (BG News, June 1, 1979, p. 18)" (Forward Falcons, p. 132).

In 1979, “Senior Becky Dodson, owner of several records, won all-region honors and advanced to the AIAW Nationals (2009 Media Guide)” (Forward Falcons, p. 132).

“In 1980, Bowling Green won the inaugural women’s Mid-American Conference cross country meet, with Betsy (Miller) Ryan winning the individual title. Falcons Ryan, Stephanie Eaton, Karen McQuilken, Terri Gindlesberger, Bev Lynch, and Kathy Kaczor were named to the All-MAC team (2009 Media Guide). At Midwest Regionals the following week, the BG harriers captured sixth place, and Ryan earned a place on the All-Region team” (Forward Falcons, p. 132).

In 1981, JoAnn Lanciaux “won the individual MAC title...Lanciaux, Kaczor, Gidget Wickham Gindlesberger, Lynch, Rosalie Cocita, and Sandra Cook won All-MAC honors. At the regional meet in East Lansing, Michigan, Lanciaux qualified for the NCAA nationals in Wichita, Kansas (BG News, Nov. 20, 1981)” (Forward Falcons, p. 135).

“In 1982, the Falcon harriers had a 7-1 dual meet record and won the MAC Championship for the third straight year (1983 Media Guide). Lanciaux once again won the individual MAC title. She repeated on the All MAC team along with teammates Cathy Schenkel, Kaczor, and Cocita. Lanciaux also repeated as a member of the All-Region team (1985 Media Guide)” (Forward Falcons, p. 135).
**Golf**

The 2010-2011 Golf media guide includes an excerpt from *Forward Falcons*. Using the same approach for the other women's media guides is an idea worth exploring.

**First team:** Media Guide—1958; *Forward Falcons*—1958 (varsity)

**Omitted coaches:** None; source of first team date—Dr. Agnes Hooley's curriculum vitae

**Table of Contents:** “Bowling Green Lady Golfers … pp. 21-42”—This is the Women’s Golf Media Guide, so there need to identify the gender. Plus, although the term “Lady Falcon Invitational” was invented by my good friend A.J. Bonar in 1981 and was used for several years, it was always inappropriate; please do not let “Lady Falcons” creep into our official verbiage, with which I'm sure you are very familiar ([http://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/marketing-and-communication/documents/graphic-standards-manual/intercollegiate-athletics-logos.pdf](http://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/marketing-and-communication/documents/graphic-standards-manual/intercollegiate-athletics-logos.pdf)).

**Historical highlights**

“Shirley Spork, a founding member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA), accepted a teaching position at BGSU in 1950. The following year, she organized a women’s golf match in which BG golfers competed against Peggy Kirk’s [Bell] golfers from Findlay College. Shortly thereafter, Spork left BGSU to play on the LPGA tour (Shirley Spork, March 4, 2010)” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 61). [personal communication]


“In 1965 and 1966, the women’s physical education department, in cooperation with the LPGA, sponsored National Golf Schools. Spork, by then a regular on the LPGA tour, and Penny Boussoulas, physical education instructor and coach of the BGSU golf team, were co-chairs of the Schools” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 156).


“The BG golfers repeated the state title in 1973, and Jill Wilhelm [McGee] played in the AIAW national tournament at the University of Georgia. The Falcons were state runners-up to the Buckeyes in the 1974 Ohio Invitational, which was held in conjunction with the Falcon Women’s invitational (*BG News*, May 22, 1974)” (*Forward Falcons*, p. 160).


Clarification: In the 1979-1980 Year-by-Year results, there is a question mark by the next-to-last invitational, in which BG shot 699. We called this tournament the “MAC Invitational” (even though women’s teams weren’t in the MAC). In 1980, it was on April 25-26 in Mt. Pleasant, MI. I’ve inserted a few articles below for evidence. It appears that BG and CMU were the only MAC teams there, so it might be more accurate to call it the “CMU Invitational” in the media guide (even though CMU also had a fall tournament).

Golfers open season
by Tracy Collins

The story of Bowling Green’s women’s golf team resembles something out of a Hollywood script. A group of also-rans gell into contenders through hard work and the leadership of a fireball coach, who is a self-proclaimed radical.

The coach, Janet Parks, is in her third year with the team, after a 10-year stint with the Falcons’ tennis team.

“The turn around of this team is remarkable,” Parks said. “And it was all done on pride, perseverance and sheer guts.”

THE “GUTS” belong to traveling players Shelly Dye and Kris McKeelvey (who share the team’s sole grant), Karen Todd, Tammy Hall, Michelle Korbis and Sally Robinson who, as a junior, is the oldest member on the team. Dye is the only newcomer to the group.

“You can’t say that one player is solely responsible for the success of this team,” Parks said. “because all of the girls have lowered their scores four to six points from last year. Their improvement comes from maturity. Now they are more at home on the courses.”

The maturing process did not come easily last year. The Falcons were next-to-last in almost all their tournaments.

The team is faring better as they prepare to start the second half of their season (the first half is played in the fall). BG won the UNG-Wilmington Invitational and finished seventh in a field of 18 teams at the MIAW Regional Championships last fall.

The Falcons open their season this weekend, playing in the Lady Buckeye Invitational in Columbus.

“We HAVE a good chance of winning two of our four remaining tournaments,” Parks said. “We should be able to win the MAC Invitational (April 25-26), but the BG Invitational (May 9-10) will be a bit more difficult because we’re playing better teams.”

Along with success has come a fresh crop of good golfers.

“My first year coaching, we had five people try out for the team,” Parks recalls. “Now we have 14, and they aren’t just out their to hit, they are all solid golfers.”

BG News, April 11, 1980, p. 6
Falcon women golfers ninth at Marshall ...

by Tracy Collins

Boisterous weather led to improved scores which, in turn, led to a first showing by Bowling Green's women's golf team last weekend at the Marshall University Invitational Tournament.

"We couldn't have asked for better weather," Coach Janet Parks said. "There were a lot of gusts." The gusts did not hamper the team, as they finished ninth out of 12 teams. The tournament winner, tied to Parks' pre-tournament prediction, was Ohio State University. The University of Kentucky finished second, with Penn State placing third in the 36-hole match.

"WE WERE in 11th place after the first round," Parks said, "but we made an excellent comeback on the second day to pull us into the top 10." That comeback was led by Kris McKelvey, who shot the team's lowest round with a 63. Shelley Dye's 74 and Tammy Hull's 85 also helped the team's second day resurgence.

"I think the girls improved a lot over last week, especially Kris," Parks said. "They are capable of doing much better, but I think they are improving at a good rate." The team's improvement came on a course that caused other teams to shoot above their averages.

"They changed the course from last year," Parks noted. "They made it more narrow, which means the players need to be more accurate. That makes it tougher this early in the year. Sally (Robinson) had a tough time with the course this week." For the second consecutive week, Dye and Hull tied for the team's best score, this time at 172, placing them 21st in the 88-player field. McKelvey's 172 placed her 23rd, while Robinson and Michelle Korbas finished further down in the pack.

"I'M GLAD that Tammy is challenging me for the top spot," Dye commented. "It has really made me concentrate harder on my shots. Now it's only a mental block at one particular hole that is keeping my scores up. It takes a lot of the pressure off of me."

The team is preparing for this weekend's Mid-American Conference Invitational Tournament which, Parks says, they are still the favorite to win. The tournament will have a reduced field, though due to the withdrawal of most of the MAC teams. Central Michigan, Ferris State and Oakland will be the only teams to compete with the Falcons in Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

BG News, April 22, 1980, p. 7—see last paragraph

McKelvey, BG second in tourney

by Tracy Collins

Kris McKelvey and Michelle Korbas broke out of early season slumps to lead Bowling Green's women's golfers to a second-place finish at the Mid-American Conference tournament last weekend at Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

Central Michigan took first place in the tournament, which featured an unexpected small field. Ferris State, the only other school present, finished third in the 36-hole match.

"The players were disappointed at the outcome," Coach Janet Parks said, "but that's what happens when you take more shots than they do. Michelle (Korbas) and Kris really came through for us, though. The scores were high throughout the entire field."

MCKELVEY and Korbas turned in their best scores this spring, shooting a 166 and 180, respectively. McKelvey's score placed her second out of 26 players, two strokes behind Pam Phipps of PSC. Shelley Dye's 170 put her here in fifth place, and Korbas finished eighth. Sally Robinson's 183 and Debbie Ewing's 196 rounded out the Falcon's scores. Ewing filled in for Tammy Hull, who missed the trip due to academic problems.

"Tammy and I both agree that academics come first, so we decided that she should miss the tournament," Parks said. "She was just a little behind on her homework, so she will be ready to play in our next tournament." Korbas did a fine job taking up the slack of Hull's absence.

"My concentration is really starting to come along, and I'm in a much better frame of mind," Korbas said. "I haven't been playing golf for very long, and I had never played a tournament before coming to BG. I'm finally getting the experience I've needed."

THE GOLFERS are preparing for the BGSU Invitational tournament, to be held on May 8-10 at the University Golf Course. Michigan, Michigan State, Marshall, Longwood, Western Kentucky and Western Illinois are expected to compete.

"Michigan State should be the toughest opponent, and Western Kentucky has improved since we beat them earlier this year," Parks said. "I haven't seen Michigan, but I know we're close to the other teams." A big factor will be the amount of practice the team gets.

"They have to practice just to get used to our own course," Parks said. "They haven't been able to play it because of the bad weather."

BG News, April 30, 1980, p. 7

Women golfers 2nd

MT. PLEASANT, Mich.—Sophomore Kris McKelvey finished second in the Central Michigan Invitational Golf Tournament to lead the BG women's team to a second place finish.

Central won the tourney with a 669 and BG totaled 699. Ferris State was a distant third with 734.

However, Ferris' Pam Phipps was the medalist with an 81-83-164. McKelvey was two shots behind with 166 (81-85).

BG's Shelley Dye was another four shots back at 170 while Michele Korbas (180) and Sally Robinson (182) also figured in the scoring.

The Falcons are idle until they host the BGSU Invitational May 9-10.

Bowling Green Daily Sentinel-Tribune, April 28, 1980
Gymnastics

First team: Media Guide—1973 (implied); Forward Falcons—1965 (varsity)


Historical highlights

"In the fall of 1965, Betty Jean Maycock came to BGSU to study for her master's degree and to start a gymnastics club. Maycock was well-prepared for this assignment as she had participated in the 1959 Pan American Games and had won gold medals in the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome as well as in the 1961 U.S State Department’s Good Will Tour of Russia" (Forward Falcons, p. 167).

“During the next few years, the Falcon gymnasts had a three-pronged approach—performing as a club, as an exhibition group, and as a team. As a team, they competed against other universities such as Ohio State, Eastern Michigan, Kent State, and Miami” (Forward Falcons, p. 167).

“Later that year [1971], they had become so proficient that they captured second place in the Division II field of 10 teams in the 1971 Midwest Intercollegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships, being outpaced only by the University of Michigan. Falcon Franny Lowe won individual championships in the uneven parallel bars and floor exercise events (BG News, March 5, 1971)” (Forward Falcons, p. 168).

“Even with the emphasis on participation, improvement, and camaraderie rather than victory, they captured second place in the 1972 Midwest meet (Class II), and senior Beth Edwards qualified for the floor exercise competition at the national meet sponsored by the Division for Girls and Women’s Sport (DGWS) (BG News, March 29, 1972)” (Forward Falcons, p. 168).

“In Simpson's first season, the Falcons had a 6-2 regular season record and came in second to Kent State at the 1975 Ohio Association of Intercollegiate Sports for Women (OAISW) meet (Level I). The highlight of the state meet was sophomore Theresa Hoover’s championship in the balance beam” (Forward Falcons, p. 171).

“In 1975-1976, the Falcons again came in second in the OAISW meet. They placed ahead of Ohio State, Youngstown State, and Miami but lost the top sport to their nemesis and perennial powerhouse, Kent State. The Falcons’ strong showing qualified them for the MAIAW at Wisconsin-Eau Claire...” (Forward Falcons, p. 171).

“By the 1976-77 season, the Falcon gymnasts had completed the evolution to a highly competitive team....The gymnasts finished that year with an 8-2 record, and, for the third straight year, came in second to Kent State in the OAISW meet” (Forward Falcons, p. 172).

“The Falcons did have an excellent season [1977-78], winning 14 of their 15 regular season meets. Although they once again ranked second to Kent State in the OAISW, the margin of difference had shrunk from 15.45 points in 1976 to only 1.75 points in 1978. Plus, this year the Falcons could brag about sophomore Cheryl Vasil’s first place finish in vaulting!” (Forward Falcons, p. 172).
In 1979-80, "The Falcons were up to the challenge as they had an undefeated regular season (11-0-1) and placed only seven-tenths of a point behind champion Ohio State in the OAISW meet (1980-81 Media Guide)" (Forward Falcons, p. 172).

“In 1980-81, Simpson's 7th season with the team, they finished 2nd to perpetual rival Kent State in the inaugural MAC gymnastics meet and 3rd in the final OAISW gymnastics meet, which was held at Miami University. Individual gymnasts began to shine, as Mary Anne Kruppa was state champion in floor exercise, and Dawn Boyle and Laurie Garee were MAC champions in vaulting and balance beam, respectively (1981-82 Media Guide)" (Forward Falcons, p. 175).

“The 1981-82 Falcons were spectacular as they stole the show before a home crowd at the MAC meet. They not only won the championship, but they also took three of the five individual MAC titles: Laurie Garee—all-around competition and uneven bars and Dawn Boyle—floor exercise. Their team performance gained the Falcons a bid to the first annual NCAA Northeast Regional Gymnastics meet, which was held in Pittsburgh (1982-83 Media Guide)" (Forward Falcons, p. 175).

“Charles Simpson, who was selected MAC gymnastics coach of the year in 1983, continued coaching the gymnastics team until his retirement from BGSU in 1996. In 2007, he was inducted into the BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame” (Forward Falcons, p. 175).
Softball

First team: Media Guide—1979; Forward Falcons—1965 (varsity)


Correction: p. 11—first sentence—Salsburg is actually the 12th head coach in the history of the program.

Historical highlights

"The first extramural softball team at the University was formed in 1965, when Pat Peterson, who was playing on a summer league faculty/student softball team, responded to the students’ request for a team (Interview, 2001)" (Forward Falcons, p. 186).

"In 1966. Coach Peterson took the helm of the varsity basketball team, and Dolores Black began to coach the softball team in the fastpitch version of the game. Black was instrumental in persuading the University grounds crew to build a softball diamond, complete with a sand infield and a backstop, at the corner of North College Drive and East Reed Street. In Black’s first year, the Falcons won all three of their games, a highlight being a 22-7 defeat of Michigan State at East Lansing (B-G News, May 17, 1966)" (Forward Falcons, p. 186).

"When [Janet] Donahue left Bowling Green after the 1972 season, the softball team was discontinued because no one on the faculty was available to coach (Sue Hager, March 12, 2010)" (Forward Falcons, p. 189).

"In 1980, Bole vacated her softball coaching position to focus on coaching basketball. In so doing, she became BG’s first full-time, female coach of a single intercollegiate sport (BG News, June 26, 1980)" (Forward Falcons, p. 189).

In 1979 and 1980, the BG softball team won second place in the OAISW tournament (Forward Falcons, p. 189).

"Haines’ optimism was well-founded as the 1982 Falcons posted a 28-19-1 showing, the best in the history of the program. Their performance earned a berth in the NCAA Regional Tournament, where they lost in the finals to the number one seed, California State-Fullerton. When Haines left BG the following year, her overall winning percentage of .557 (57-45-3) was the highest achieved by any coach since the re-emergence of the softball program in 1977. As of 2010, Haines’ record remained unequaled" (Forward Falcons, p. 190).

Note: Kathy Bole was the first full-time, female coach (softball and women’s basketball) hired exclusively by the Athletics Department (1979 Key, p. 161); she was also the first female coach hired to coach a single team (i.e., basketball). Unlike all the coaches of women’s teams before her, she was not a member of the BGSU faculty.
Swimming and Diving

First team—Media Guide—1968 (club); 1974 (varsity); Forward Falcons—1948 (varsity)


Note: On pp. 6 and 36, and incorrect "first team" date of 1968 appears.

Historical highlights

“By 1951, the Splashers [the nickname of the team] had a national intercollegiate standing of fourth place and had attained national recognition in competition against Western Ontario, Purdue, Ohio State, Michigan State, Ohio Wesleyan, and Michigan State (Key, 1951)” (Forward Falcons, p. 193).

“During the 1950s, competition in “form swimming” was often included in the women’s swim meets....In 1950, the Splashers defeated Western [Ontario], with Falcons Joan Wickes and Sallie Buck winning first place in several speed events, and Joyce McCreery and Marie Kenney coming in first in the synchronized duet category (Bee Gee News, Dec. 1, 1950)” (Forward Falcons, p. 195).

“In 1955, the Falcons lost to Western, even though [Sue] Mignerey won two speed events, Adella Grove took a first in diving, Connie Wood prevailed in synchronized solo, and Fran Isch and Lynne Fauley won the synchronized duet category (B-G News, Dec. 9, 1955)” (Forward Falcons, p. 195).

In the 1950s and 1960s, "The Splashers were increasing their winning percentage against universities such as Michigan State, Ohio State, Miami, Ohio Wesleyan, Denison, and Western Ontario. Each season was very successful with no more than one loss shadowing the teams record (Key, 1955). They also could boast of having a record setting swimmer on their roster: Patricia Dow held the intercollegiate record in the 50-yard backstroke with a time of 35.1 seconds against Kent State in the 1962 season (Key, 1962, p. 198)” (Forward Falcons, p. 70).
“...the swimming and diving teams of the 1970s took an amazing array of honors and championships. After a second consecutive undefeated season in 1969-70...the Falcons went on to additional undefeated seasons in 1971, 1972, 1974, and 1978 (1981-82 Media Guide). By the end of the 1973-1974 season, the Falcons had earned 25 straight victories and only one loss over the previous five years” (Forward Falcons, p. 198).

“During the 1970s, the Falcons were a force to be reckoned with, as they won the OAlSW championship every year from 1974 through 1980 (1980-81 Media Guide). Falcon swimmers qualified for the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) national meet every year from 1973 through 1981, finishing among the top 35 teams in the nation several times. They also dominated the annual Midwest regional meet and won an international championship at the 1975 International Invitational held at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada (1976; 1980-81 Media Guides). To top it off, between 1974 and 1977, ten BGSU swimmers earned the designation of AIAW All-American...(2009 Media Guide; BG News, April 2, 1975; Newell, 2010)” (Forward Falcons, p. 200. [Note—the names of the All-Americans and their events are in the 2009 media guide.]).

Note 1: The records from this point through 1982 are included in the media guide.

Note 2: I don't know when they dropped diving; they reestablished it in 2014-15 (Media Guide, p. 36).
Tennis

First year: Media Guide—1974; Forward Falcons—1951 (varsity)


Historical highlights

In 1949..."Alice Marble, a professional tennis star and friend of Gertrude Eppler's, came to BGSU and present a talk titled ‘The Will to Win.’ Preceding the program, the tennis club held a reception for Marble" (Bee Gee News, May 18, 1949). Forty-two year later, the world learned that BG's guest of honor, who was also known as the ‘Queen of the Tennis World,’ had been a spy for U. S. Army Intelligence during World War II (Marble, 1991)" (Forward Falcons, p. 226).

"The 1951 club selected representatives to play in the Ohio College Women's Singles Tournament, and the following year, BG hosted the Ohio State Women's Singles Tennis Championship" (Forward Falcons, pp. 54, 229). [1951 Key, p. 93; BG News, April 29, 1952]

"The 1954 tennis club held try-outs twice a year, sent players to the Ohio State Women's Intercollegiate Tennis Tournament, visited several other campuses to compete, and hosted other tennis clubs at BG" (Forward Falcons, p. 229; [1954 Key, p. 70]).

"In 1958, Bowling Green players made it to the semifinals in singles and doubles at the Ohio Women's Intercollegiate Meet held at Oberlin (Key, 1958)" (Forward Falcons, pp. 76, 229).

"Throughout the 1970s, BGSU boasted an outstanding intercollegiate tennis program. Before BGSU began giving grants-in-aid, more than 100 women would try out for the team every year. According to Coach Janet Parks, the team was frequently ‘three deep in every position’ (May 4, 1988)" (Forward Falcons, p. 89 [Note: This was a quotation in Addie Hostetler's thesis; I should have cited it more specifically in the book.])

"In 1964, the Falcons placed third out of 17 colleges in the state tournament held at Kent State....The following year, BG hosted approximately 20 other colleges and universities at the All-State Tennis Tournament and placed second. University President Bill Jerome was the featured speaker at the closing banquet (B-G News, May 18, 1965)" (Forward Falcons, p. 230).

"The best season in the team's history occurred in 1972, when BG went undefeated (12-0) in the regular season and came in second to Ohio State in the tournament. The most satisfying victory of that year was the Falcons’ defeat of Ohio State in a regular season match—on the OSU home courts! Another highlight was the selection of #1 singles player Toni Meiss [Scherzer] for the USLTA national tournament at Auburn University, where she won her first-round match" (Forward Falcons, p. 233).

"A highlight of the 1974 OAISW tournament, which was held at BG, occurred when University President and accomplished tennis player Hollis Moore delivered the keynote speech at the banquet" (Forward Falcons, p. 233). [see p. 45 for a transcript of his speech]
Track and Field

First team: Media Guide—1974; Forward Falcons—1965 (varsity)

Omitted coaches: Bonnie Motter (1965-1968); Sally Parent Sakola (1968-1972); Ellie Robillard (1972-1973); Cathy Buell (1973-1974); Cathie Schweitzer (1974-1975); David Williams (1975-1978); Pat Brett (1978-1984)—no pre-2011 women's coaches are mentioned in the media guide; several high school coaches of current athletes are mentioned.

Historical highlights

"By the mid-1960s, the track and field teams coached by Bonnie Motter were competing with other universities such as Kent State, Findlay College, and Ohio University as well as participating in the annual Ohio Relays..." (BG News, Jan. 12, 1968, p. 7) (Forward Falcons, p. 237). [Additional source—personal knowledge: In 1966-67, Janet Parks was the assistant track and field coach under Bonnie Motter]

In 1974-75, “...under the leadership of new coach Cathie Schweitzer, the Falcons came in second in the All-Ohio, where Linda Helmkink (javelin) and the 880-yard medley relay team of Helmkink, Betsy Uhman, Polly Koch, and Jan Samuelson won state championships (BG News, May 13, 1975). A highlight of the year was Jenny Gill’s 8th place pentathlon finish in the 1975 AIAW national meet at Oregon State University (BG News, April 22, 1976; BG News, May 13, 1976).” (Forward Falcons, p. 238). [I know the BG News dates seem odd. I double-checked and confirmed their accuracy.]

David Williams’ teams “won three consecutive All-Ohio state championships and Mid-American Invitationals (the precursor to the MAC championship that would begin in 1981), while turning in numerous record-setting individual and team performances” (Forward Falcons, p. 238).

“Williams’ team won its first state title in 1976 at the Ohio Twilight Relays at Ohio State...Deb Romsek ran away with individual titles in the 400-meter hurdles, the 100-meter hurdles, and the 440-yard dash, and joined Stanene Strouss, Lynne Heckman, and Samuelson as champions in the mile relay (1977 Media Guide). After a Falcon victory at the Mid-American Invitational, Gill (pentathlon), Romsek (400-meter hurdles), Strouss (880-yard dash) and the mile relay team of Samuelson, Romsek, Heckman, and Strouss competed in the 1976 AIAW Nationals at Kansas State, where the Falcons ranked 30th among the 145 teams represented. Romsek and Gill finished 4th and 7th, respectively, earning All-American status in their events (BG News, May 13, 1976; BG News, May 18, 1976) (Forward Falcons, pp. 238, 241).

“By the 1977 season, the story of the Falcon cinderwomen had become one about championships, both team and individual. Once again, BG won the team championship at the All-Ohio and at the Mid-American Invitational. State titles went to Romsek (40-meter hurdles), Pam Koeth (shot put), Lorna Miller (discus and javelin), the mile relay team of Becky Dodson, Gail Billet, Samuelson, and Heckman, and the 800-meter team of Samuelson and Billet (1978 Media Guide). Miller and the 2-mile relay team of Dodson, Romsek, Billet, and Samuelson qualified for the AIAW national meet at UCLA (BG News, May 19, 1977; BG News, May 25, 1978). Along the way, the 1977 team set 10 new school records” (Forward Falcons, p. 241).
At the 1978 AIAW indoor meet at the University of Missouri-Columbia....“Although not reported at the time, Koeth, a 2-time OAISW shot put champion, finished in 7th place, thus earning All-American status (2009 Football Media Guide, p. 124; Survey, 2009) (Forward Falcons, p. 241).

Note 1: Pages 241-245 in Forward Falcons contain numerous names and events. I believe that the people who create the media guides are better prepared than I to select entries for the guides. So, I stopped here—with one very important exception, which follows.

“The 1982 season also saw the Bowling Green Invitational renamed in honor of Jane Herrmann, a 1978-1981 team member who had been killed in a car-train accident in December 1981, six days before she was to graduate. Herrmann, who was deaf, had competed in the discus and javelin at the Deaf Olympics (BG News, May 7, 1982). At some point in later years, however, the Jane Herrmann Invitational reverted to its original name, the Bowling Green Invitational. As Ann Bowers was conducting research for this book, she read a 1982 BG News story about the Jane Herrmann Invitational and inquired as to why the event was no longer named for Herrmann. When Cami Wells, current BGSU women’s and men’s track and field/cross country coach, heard about this situation, she immediately established the Jane Herrmann Invitational as an annual event (BG News, February 11, 2009)” (Forward Falcons p. 245).

Note 2: I’m wondering what happened to the Jane Herrmann Invitational. Very few University events, building, spaces, etc. are named in recognition of women, and it was sad to see a name that existed in the past eliminated. If it is not possible to name a meet in Jane’s honor, perhaps there is some other way in which the Athletics Department could recognize her.
Volleyball

First year: Media guide—1967 (club); 1976 (varsity); Forward Falcons—1965 (varsity)

Coaches omitted: Dorothy Luedtke (1965-1967); Ina Temple (1967-1971); Patricia Peterson (1971-1980); Forward Falcons incorrectly reports Sandy Haines’ years as 1980-1982; the media guide is correct—1980-1983

Historical highlights
“In 1965, Dorothy Luedtke organized and coached an intercollegiate volleyball team (Key, 1965)” (Forward Falcons, p. 247).

“Over the course of her nine-year volleyball coaching career, Peterson’s teams established an excellent record as they competed against schools such as Michigan State, Miami, Wright State, Ohio University, Ohio State, Cleveland State, Defiance, Kent, Ashland, Dayton, Cincinnati, Wooster, Cedarville, Ohio Northern, Wittenberg, Mount St. Joseph, and Capital. The Falcon spikers performed consistently well in invitationals and the Ohio Association of Intercollegiate Sports for Women (OAISW) tournaments, in which all nine teams reached either the quarterfinals or semifinals” (Forward Falcons, p. 248).

“In 1977, everything jelled for the Falcon netters, as they had an 18-win season, the first of two such seasons in a row. Eleven of the wins were consecutive, constituting the longest overall winning streak in recorded BG volleyball history. The streak was tied by Denise Van De Walle’s 1991 squad but was not surpassed until 2006, when Van De Walle recorded 17 victories in a row (Media Guide, 2009)” (Forward Falcons, p. 251).

“Another high point of the 1977 season was the Falcons’ defeat of Michigan State, the reigning Big Ten champ. Although BG lost the first game by a score of 5-15, they came back to win the match” (Forward Falcons, p. 252).

“Haines’ final season opened with about 500 enthusiastic fans loudly encouraging the Falcons in a home game against Kent State (Key, 1983). The support must have helped, as the 1982 Falcons captured second pace in the BG Invitational and fourth place in invitationals at Cleveland State and Eastern Michigan. BG also qualified for the MAC Championship, where Falcon Renee Manwaring was selected for the all-conference team (2009 Media Guide)” (Forward Falcons, p. 255).
Appendix
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Historical review of BGSU criticized

To the Editor:

The “Back-to-College” section of the Daily Sentinel-Tribune on Friday, August 23, was very commendable. Publications such as this are extremely valuble in demonstrating community support for the University and in fostering a positive “town-gown” relationship. However, the omission of any significant mention of the women’s athletic program during the 75-year history of BGSU has prompted us to comment. Perhaps this omission was due to the erroneous belief that “there were no girls (sic) competing in sports at BGSU in Cooper’s day,” as stated by Gene Welty in an article concerning the men’s swim team. In the same article, Dr. Sam Cooper states, “The women were not the least bit interested in intercollegiate athletics in those days and actually held them in disdain.”

We would like to set the record straight, insofar as this formidable task can be accomplished in a “letter to the editor.” Women have been active in intercollegiate athletics at BGSU for many decades. The women’s swim team was competing with Big Ten Universities in 1946, the year that Dr. Cooper arrived at Bowling Green! The women of those days also competed in basketball, volleyball, synchronized swimming, field hockey, tennis and telegraphic archery. The women’s intercollegiate athletic program was developed and administered by dedicated women physical educators who received neither financial support from the Athletic Department, grants-in-aid, merit pay, nor even coaching salaries. The program was offered for the benefit of the student/athletes and, although the coaches received a great deal of gratification from the personal and athletic successes of these students, they realized no material gains.

Those of us who participated in women’s athletics in the 1940s, either as coaches or competitors, resent the implication that we did not exist. Those of us who coached in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s share this resentment. We are both surprised and disappointed that our efforts appear to have gone unnoticed and unappreciated. Fortunately, the hundreds of young women who participated under our tutelage during those years have provided us with sufficient positive reinforcement to sustain our conviction that our efforts were not in vain. Their continued support of the educational programs in the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation demonstrates their appreciation of us and of the quality experiences afforded them in the classroom and in athletics. These women deserve to be recognized. An updated history of the BGSU athletic program, focusing on the contributions and achievements of women, would be interesting and appropriate. We urge the journalists at the Sentinel-Tribune to provide this information to the citizens of Bowling Green, and we offer our assistance in this endeavor.

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Bowling Green Daily Sentinel-Tribune, Sept. 4, 1985, p. 3

Correction: The women’s swim team started in 1948.
IN DEFENSE OF A SOFT SECOND SERVE

Remarks by President Hollis A. Moore
Ohio College Women's Tennis Tournament
May 16, 1974

Billie Jean King's domination of Bobby Riggs last fall may have been mostly show business, but it did have an effect on the world of sports. Like a hard first serve that hits into the net or outside the baseline the King-Riggs matchup gained the opponent's attention. Now that expectations are set for a hard-driving battle for sexual equality in collegiate sports, it may be time to turn instead to the strategy of a softer second serve.

There are a number of reasons for suggesting this approach, none of which are chauvinistic—or at least I hope they are not. Riggs set a well-remembered negative example regarding the masculine mouth, and I have had sufficient humiliations on the court by both men and women to recognize that gender is not meaningful beyond organizing mixed doubles.

I think a soft second serve is sound strategy because the real objective of the battle against chauvinism is not equal access to bad sports programs. In the long run, what we're after is open availability to everyone to pursue quality performance in athletics. I think, too, that the soft serve is needed because the opposition on the other side of the net consists of both men and women who have been left somewhat bewildered by the furious slash of the opening attack against our cultural investments in athletic inequities. I would like to spend a few minutes clarifying the rationale for my game plan, if I may.

Riggs and King made national headlines, but the real drama began more quietly in 1972 when federal legislation, known as Title IX, established legal, national commitment to eliminate sexual discrimination in educational programs and activities. Sports and athletic programs which are justified by educational objectives fall within the purview of the Title IX mandate.

A number of inequities have been brought to national attention and serve as examples of the problem women in sports are facing. At a southern state university female students could not take coaching courses for credit with the result that they could not be certified to coach teams. At a Pennsylvania college women must show proficiency in two sports to graduate; men need to show proficiency in only one. At a major state university women were not allowed to participate in an intramural program of team sports but they were allowed to compete in individual or dual sports.
One of the most obvious types of inequities is in the allocation of facilities and equipment. For example: In many places the women's teams get the left-over equipment or the old, discarded equipment of the men's teams. In many places female teams get no uniforms or less elaborate uniforms than the male teams. And almost everywhere the idea of an athlete's training table is confined to a men-only definition. Male athletes are expected to eat steak, but you'll find the women's collegial teams relegated to MacDonald's or box lunches packed... and paid for...by the coaches.

I am sure that each of you could cite additional inequities, and could, in fact, develop a rather extensive list of discriminatory practices here at Bowling Green and in Ohio generally. Such practices, which I assure you, I want to see corrected, are symptoms of the deeper problem which needs your attention and your efforts. The real problem resides in a whole set of attitudes and cultural beliefs about women in sports.

Both men and women have tended to cling to stereotyping of male and female participation in athletics. In our American culture men are expected to be strong, highly achievement oriented, aggressive, swift, and self-confident. Those same qualities have generally been viewed as non-feminine. Boys who fall short of expectations become labelled as "sissies"; girls who show interest and enthusiasm for physical activity carry the tag of "tom-boy." In too many cases our children get the message and reinforce the stereotyping through conformity to the cultural norms.

Sports Illustrated has summarized these attitudes by stating that "Sports may be good for people, but they are considered a lot gooder for male people than for female people." It is all of the discriminatory and prejudiced beliefs and actions that are implied in that statement that need to be countered by a second serve—a good serve but one that's guaranteed to be accurate.

The old norms about athletics being masculine are not going to die out and be replaced until all of us who believe in athletics communicate a believable rationale. Too many male coaches in too many schools have spouted the trite justifications that sports build discipline and character. That's been the theme of too many bad speeches at too many unnecessary high school football banquets. You remember as I do the confrontations between players and coaches regarding haircuts and life styles. Out of those confrontations it became obvious that those young men believed that sports have value while at the same time they rejected the idea that their involvement was for the sake of their character. It is my conviction that the women's drive for sexual equity in sports has no more intent to reinforce the old cliches than these male players have. Maybe less.
Personally I think there are other values that both you and I endorse by being sports enthusiasts but that we have not articulated clearly. They are not male values; they are not female values; they are human values.

For one thing we know that sports provide appealing ways for each of us to gain the basic human experience of belonging.* Through sports we establish group relationships of persons responding with persons. Watch a team play its game and you will be immediately struck with the interpersonal rapport and group spirit observable in the behavior. Curiously enough, that same sense of belonging envelopes the competitors in tennis singles as well. Opponents compete, but with a profound feeling of shared experience in the event. You know, tonight, that tennis is not just competition, it is community. To share a meal, as you have done, is made more significant because you have first shared the tests of skills and abilities.

Another value of the sports experience is that it replaces routine in our life with drama. It is said that fiction is dependent upon the willing suspension of disbelief, and, in a way, athletic contests ask the same dependency of participants and spectators. At game time the sameness of everyday life is forgotten and minds tune to the sense of conflict and the resolution of that conflict. We know at other moments that it is not life: that it is only a game, that it is, in a sense, a fiction. But at the moment of play disbelief is suspended and the game assumes a heightened reality. From such dramatic moments in sports comes a new awareness and a new respect for living. We never see the commonplaces of our everyday lives quite the same way again.

Either team or individual sports also provide a means for fulfilling a third value—the human capacity to exceed one's own expectations, to reach beyond oneself. It is the credo of Outward Bound. By using nature and an increasingly difficult series of challenges to confront the individual with unknown stress situations, OB seeks to heighten each person's sense of self-confidence, compassion for others, responsibility and service to others, and respect and dignity for mankind. They provide the circumstances that allow an individual to gain a better understanding of his or her own resources and their outer limits. In recent years psychology has turned strongly toward the concept of self-actualization and the processes of becoming something more than you have been. Sports allow such an experience, in fact, require it through the processes of conditioning and training. A feeling of well-being is typical for the well-conditioned athlete. That feeling does not come

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*The values expressed here have been adopted from a speech presented by Dr. Charles J. Ping, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Central Michigan University. Excerpts of Dr. Ping's speech appeared in National Collegiate Athletic Association News, March 15, 1974.
from moment by moment stresses on tired muscles or the constant demands to concentrate in repetitive practices. It comes, instead, from the realization that through such conditioning the athlete has developed into something more. I think you know it is a satisfying feeling.

Another value is that sports allow for personal expression. In our 20th century—soon to be 21st—sophisticated culture we tend to inhibit many forms of expression and, in general, maintain social norms which cripple emotion. People in many other cultures dance to express their joys, their sorrows, their excitement and their identifications with the universe of life. Last summer I saw Masai ceremonies in East Africa that were dance and athletics simultaneously. Americans seldom dance, and it may be that athletics is our cultural substitute. There is no doubt that sports provides a means of expressive movement, and I know there is a genuine appreciation among all of us for the graceful execution of moves and countermoves in athletic play. We like good form, and when we see it in others or feel it within ourselves a satisfaction is achieved like no other one I know.

In the musical "My Fair Lady" Henry Higgins poses the question "Why can't a woman be more like a man?" Unfortunately, many people who are trapped by their own stereotypes think that the quest for equality in sports is based on Henry Higgins' premise. They are poised and ready to react to what they think are demands to abdicate their femininity or their masculinity. That gentle lob into their court which eventually lets them realize that they are also needed in the game is a disarming strategy which I think will produce the ultimate victory.

These, then, are the reasons why I believe it is time for the soft second serve. Why? Because we need to keep the ball in play. We can't run the risk of a double fault. The sports world is not a masculine world and those who thought so did, indeed, need a first serve smash to let them know that this set is for real. But the winners on both sides of the net will be those who recognize that the objective of the game is human development. Such development does not come through attempts to confine men and women to some equalizing sameness, but comes instead from the efforts we all make to see that each person, male or female, recognizes the cultural and personal benefits of sports and willingly serves those benefits through personal participation. Okay...serve!